

CLAIMS

1. A computer network comprising:

a host processor; and

a plurality of computing devices, at least one of the computing devices being remote from the host processor, the at least one of the computing devices being handheld and portable, the at least one of the computing devices enabling capture by at least one biometric sensor of a user biometric image of a finger, thumb, or palm, the at least one of the computing devices providing authentication of a user prior to responding to user access to network data, the authentication being biometric authentication, placement of the biometric sensor enabling capture of the user biometric image that becomes available at continual intervals during routine computer usage, the capture of the user biometric image being incidental to routine computer usage, the capture of the user biometric image being seamless and incidental to the data request from the at least one of the computing devices to the host processor enabling user identity authentication with user request to access network data.

2. The computer network of Claim 1, wherein the at least one of the computing devices includes a second biometric sensor.

3. The computer network of Claim 1, wherein the biometric sensor is a fingerprint sensor disposed on a side portion of the at least one of the computing devices so as to capture a print image of a user thumb.

4. The computer network of Claim 1, wherein the biometric sensor is a fingerprint sensor disposed on a back surface of the at least one of the computing devices so as to capture a print image of a user index finger.

5. The computer network of Claim 1, wherein access to network data is enabled whenever the captured print image matches a reference print image of an authorized user.

6. The computer network of Claim 1, wherein the at least one of the computing devices includes means to enable the host processor to determine if the computing device is counterfeit.

7. A computer network comprising:

a host processor; and

a plurality of computing devices, at least one of the computing devices being remote from the host processor, the at least one of the computing devices being handheld and portable, at least one of the computing devices enabling capture through at least one biometric sensor of a user biometric image, the at least one of the computing devices providing biometric authentication of a user prior to responding to user access to network data, the authentication being biometric authentication;

whereby capture of the user biometric image is available at continual intervals during routine computer usage; and

whereby the capture of the user biometric image is incidental to routine computer usage, the biometric authentication being seamless, the capture of the biometric image being in an incidental manner as the data request is submitted from the at least one computing device to the host processor enabling user identity authentication with the request to access the network data.

8. The computer network of Claim 7, wherein the at least one of the computing devices includes a second biometric sensor.

9. The computer network of Claim 7, wherein the biometric sensor is a fingerprint sensor disposed on a side portion of the at least one of the computing devices so as to capture a print image of a user thumb.

10. The computer network of Claim 7, wherein the biometric sensor is a fingerprint sensor disposed on a back surface of the at least one of the computing devices so as to capture a print image of a user index finger.

11. The computer network of Claim 7, wherein access to network data is enabled whenever the captured print image matches a reference print image of an authorized user.
12. The computer network of Claim 7, wherein the at least one of the computing devices includes means to enable the host processor to determine if the computing device is counterfeit.
13. A computing device for access to a secure data, the computing device being handheld and portable, the computing device including at least one sensor for capture of a user biometric image, the computing device providing authentication of user identity prior to responding to user access to secure data, placement of the biometric sensor enabling capture of an image of a portion of a hand of a user during routine computer usage, the capture of the user biometric image being incidental to routine computer usage, the capture of the user biometric image being seamless to the data request enabling identity authentication with each user request for data access.
14. The computing device of Claim 13, wherein the computing device is part of a computer network, network data being available to the computing device from a host processor upon biometric identity authentication.
15. The computer network of Claim 13, wherein the computing device includes a second biometric sensor.
16. The computer network of Claim 13, wherein the biometric sensor is a fingerprint sensor disposed on a side portion of the computing device so as to capture a print image of a user thumb.
17. The computer network of Claim 13, wherein the biometric sensor is a fingerprint sensor disposed on a back surface of the computing device so as to capture a print image of a user index finger.